A TRUE RELATION OF A great Number of People Frozen to Death NEAR SALISBURY,

And in ſeveral other Parts of the Weſt of *ENGLAND*, on *Tueſday* the Twenty third of *December*, 1684. beſides Horſes and much other Cattle.

THE *Diſmal Truths* contained in this Paper will need no Preamble to introduce a belief thereof in the Reader; They are no Stories of what happened in former Kings Reigns, or an Account of things done in *Preſter John*'s *Dominions*, eaſier to be believed then diſproved. ----- *But a Dreadful Relation* fit to be Recorded in the Chronicle for After Ages, and a preſent aſtoniſhing Diſpenſation of God Almighty, which calls for the ſerious Conſideration of all *Engliſhmen*.

On *Tueſday* the 23d of *December*, 1684. the Weather being cold and freezing, there likewiſe happened a terrible, and certainly the moſt dreadful Storm hath in theſe Nations been heard of in the Memory of man, to give the Particulars from every part of the Kingdom, would take up many Sheets; and what I yet have exactly, is from the Weſtern parts thereof.

The Carriers from *London*, to *Exeter*, *Taunton*, *Shaftsbury*, *Bath*, and *Wells*, *&c.* going as uſually out from *London* on *Saturdays*, and particularly the 20th of *December*, 1684. and in purſuance of their reſpective Journeys, being on *Tueſday* the 23d with their Horſes and Paſſengers, to paſs the *Downs* on this ſide *Salsbury*: Such of them as eſcaped, and are ſince returned to *London*, do relate the manner of the Storm in thoſe parts to be as followeth, *viz.* That the Wind being all day *North-Eaſt*, and violently cold, about two in the Afternoon it began to Snow very faſt, and held on till two or three a Clock next Morning, the wind continuing fierce, and blowing it in ſuch heaps, that in ſome places the Snow lay as high as a Houſe top, in others the ground ſcarcely covered, which ſo altered the Roads eſpecially upon the *Downs* and Plains, that (although ſome of them had weekly uſed the ſame Roads for thirty or forty years together) none of the ſaid Carriers could that Night either find the way to their Inns, or any Towns they might get Shelter, but themſelves, their Paſſengers, and Horſes forced to wander about till many of them were frozen to Death, who before the Storm began, were hearty and healthful. Each of the ſaid Carriers labouring, and being loſt ſeveral Miles diſtant from the other.

Mr. Mathews the Carrier of *Shaftsbury* had his unfortunate lot within fifty six miles of *London*, two miles on this side *Stockbridge*, who albeit he escaped with life, yet his hands are frozen up, that he hath lost the use of them, and two of his Horses dyed with extremity of Cold upon the *Downs* that very night.

Mr. *Morris* the younger Carrier to *Exeter*; also Mr. *Clark* the Elder, who carries to *Shaftsbury*, *Evill* and other Parts, with their Horses and Passengers were lost upon the *Downs*, six miles beyond *Stockbridge*; there in like manner wandring all night to an again, by continual action and labour were preserved alive.

Mr. *Collins* the *Taunton* Carrier, and Mr. the Carrier to *Bath* and *Wells*, with their Gangs of Horses and Passengers travelled that day, about two miles distant each from other; were passing between *Andover* and *Amsbury*, and when first lost, judged they might want five or six miles of *Amesbury*.

The *Wells* Carrier being foremost, had two of his Company frozen to death, *viz.* his own Son, a youth about thirteen or fourteen years of Age, and a Young man, a Passenger aged about twenty years; which persons were not parted from the rest, or smothered in the Snow, but absolutely frozen to death, as they rode or walked along in Company: This Distressed Carriers Bowels Earning when he saw his Son grow stiff and faint, got him up, and carried him till he dyed in his Arms, and after he was dead, carried him on Horse Back; until extremity of Cold forced him to let him drop upon the *Down* and leave him.

Neither had Mr. *Collins* who carries to *Taunton* and *Tiverton* less misfortune; a man and his wife, two hearty antient people, being of his Passengers, and riding on single Horses, altho' very healthful and well in the morning, and chearful in the afternoon, yet by the continued cold and straggling of the poor Horses, or by their own growing feeble to manage them, lost sight of the Gang, and wandred by themselves, till at length they lay down and dyed one at the feet of the other.

Mr. *Collins* himself and Servants, when within three miles of *Amesbury*, hapned upon a Parish where they hired a Guide for ten Shillings, who undertook to lead their Bell-Horse, and conducted them a mile and half of the three; when going faster then they could follow. Mr. *Collins* beg'd of him for Gods sake to go no faster then they were able to come with the other Horses.

But the Guide alledging his own life was in Danger, kept on his pace, and got safe to the *Bear* Inn at *Amesbury* by nine a Clock at Night; Mr. *Collins*, his Servants and Horses wandring till six in the Morning, and then discovering an old Barn broke into it for Shelter till day light, one of his said Servants is like to loose the use of his Limbs, and Mr. *Collins* with the rest, meerly (under God) by violent labour and bussling saved their Lives.

The Servant of the Lady *Fines* of *New-Tony*, in the County of *Wilts*, having been that day at *Salisbury* market, in his return with a Cart and two Horses, lost himself upon the same *Down*, and having tyed his fore-Horse-head to the Cart, was found dead near them, by eight of the Clock that evening, and being within half a mile of *Amesbury*: The Servants of the *Bear-Inn*, coming out to look for the Carriers, found him in manner as aforesaid.

A Shop-keeper living near *Chauke*, a place in those Parts, also perished in coming from *Salisbury*-Market.

Six or Seven Country-people in passing from *Chard* to *Ilmster*, though but three or four miles distance, were by the way frozen to death.

One Mr. *Knight* of *Evil* a *Market-Town* in the County of *Somerset*, in a Letter to a Friend in this City, affirms, about thirty people from that Town and parts adjacent, that went the same day to Markets, or after other concerns were not heard of, except some few found dead.

About *Tiverton* many in like manner perished as they went from Markets. Between *Plymouth* and *Exeter* many smothered in the Snow. From almost every part of the Western Road, we have the like dreadful News, which all happened upon the very same day, and the Truth thereof ready to be testified by hundreds that are since returned to this City, besides the Carriers herein mentioned, who are themselves men of great Credit.

FINIS.

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